

## Partisan Politics Threatens Social Work Licensure

By Valerie Arendt, MSW, MPP; Executive Director

After over a year of working with the North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board (Licensure Board) and legislators, in February 2019, NASW-NC was thrilled to announce the introduction of a bill updating social work licensure in North Carolina.

This legislation will make necessary changes to the North Carolina Certification and Licensure Act ([Chapter 90B](#)) in order to remain in compliance with the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), the entity that designs and implements the qualifying national social work examinations for the North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board.

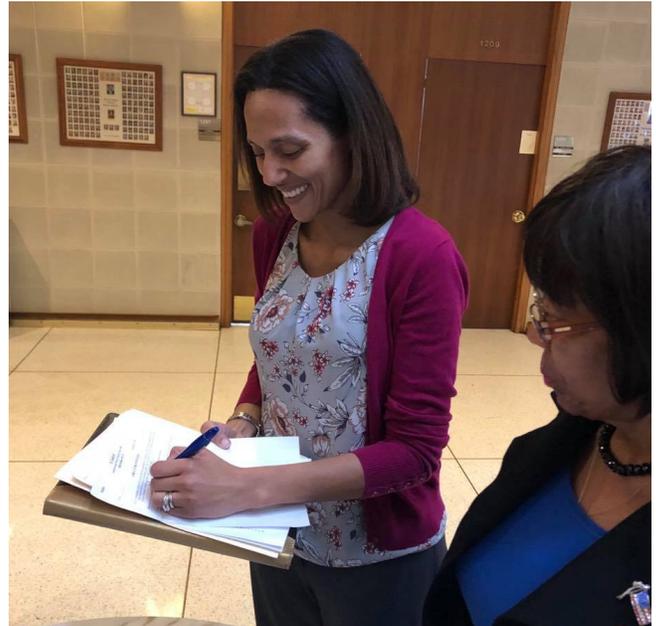
**For North Carolina to continue to use the ASWB Clinical Licensure Exam, the exam must be taken by Licensed Clinical Social Worker Associates (LCSWAs) AFTER completing 3,000 clinical hours and 100 hours of supervision.** Currently, LCSWAs in North Carolina can take the Clinical Social Work Licensure Exam as soon as they receive their LCSWA and must take and pass the exam within two years of receiving their LCSWA. The clinical examination is designed by ASWB to be implemented AFTER the completion of all hours of clinical practice under the Associate Licensure.

The Licensure Board and NASW-NC worked very closely to find four sponsors in the North Carolina House of Representatives for a bill to make an easy fix to a potentially detrimental issue to clinical social work licensure. [House Bill 203](#) is sponsored by Representatives Sydney Batch, MaryAnn Black, Graig Meyer and Donna White (Batch, Black and Meyer are all social workers who hold an MSW degree). Along with a few additional updates, HB 203 is written to correct the exam eligibility requirement and allow social workers to continue to become fully licensed after July 2021.

**If this specific correction is not made into law, North Carolina will no longer be able to fully license clinical social workers as of July 2021. I cannot stress enough how serious this is and how this would be detrimental to our profession and to the people of North Carolina.**

We are proud that this was Representative Sydney Batch's first bill she introduced as primary sponsor in the North Carolina House of Representatives. It was an exciting moment to see her sign the filing documentation to help future social workers in North Carolina become licensed.

As weeks went by, HB 203 was never advanced to its assigned committees. After spending weeks getting the run around from committee leadership, NASW-NC found out that the House of Representatives leadership have made it impossible for



Representative Sydney Batch filing her first bill, HB203: Amend the Social Work Practice Act, on February 27, 2019 at the North Carolina General Assembly.

any bills with Representative Sydney Batch as the primary sponsor to advance.

HB 203 is a simple, but critical, Social Work Licensure Update and is not considered a controversial bill. Why would House leadership prevent this bill from moving forward? Why is House leadership targeting Representative Batch who is a social worker and understands the importance of social work licensure in North Carolina? Because of partisan politics. Sydney Batch narrowly won her seat in House District 37 to her Republican opponent. Republican House Leadership have decided to block all of her primary sponsored bills from moving forward in order to attempt to ensure she loses her seat in 2020.

NASW-NC is a non-partisan organization and we work very closely across the political spectrum at the North Carolina General Assembly. No legislation would move in either the House or the Senate without

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## Reflections on Moving Forward

Just recently, I was out of state and in a serious car accident. My sister was in the passenger seat and we had just left my aunt's house. After pulling onto Coal River Road, a car came around the corner, traveling fast and directly in our path. Luckily, we pulled over somewhat and avoided a head on collision, instead getting hit hard on the driver's side. Although my car was dragged onto the wrecker, my sister and I escaped with soreness and bruising. When we got out of the car and called 911, my sister went to check on the other driver. Fortunately, this passenger seemed to suffer only minor injuries. A man in the car traveling behind us approached me, indicating that he wanted to give a statement when the officer arrived as the other driver did not seem to get out of the way nor slow down. In fact, this other driver seemed under the influence of something. When I learned that she had no license nor insurance, I left the scene assuming that she would, at a minimum get a ticket for the accident.

After getting the police report, she was charged only with not having insurance. When I contacted the sheriff, he reported that in most accidents in his county, the driver seemed to be under the influence.

As a couple of weeks have passed, my bruises have healed and my frustration has passed. I have come to realize that this incident offers some wisdom. First, although it may seem that there are times in which I have no control over a situation, I am part of an incredible organization that can and does influence change. And advocacy and change has been a daily part of our NASW-NC team, especially recently. Read about the licensure challenges in Valerie's article. Check out Kay's weekly Advocacy Update and recent calls to action regarding bills related to issues such as solitary confinement and mental illness and born alive abortion survivors.

A friend who turns 90 this month often reminds me, "It could be worse." Trying to keep this philosophy in mind, I am reminded we are a profession that works well under pressure, is flexible, and adapts to new circumstances. Many thanks to our NASW-NC leaders and Board of Directors who work tirelessly to advance our profession and advocate on behalf of vulnerable populations. NASW-NC has provided education and training on immigration challenges, gerrymandering, and mental health reform. The NASW-NC Board of Directors has had a great year, successfully implementing a Strategic Plan focused on outcomes related to membership, retention, communication, and diversity.

Finally, gratitude. My sister later told me that the thought that ran through her head was "Is this it? Is this all I get?" Thankfully, we get to make more plans. She is even considering moving back to North Carolina. I am so lucky to have a great sister, to be a NASW-NC social worker, and to be part of such a great Board of Directors team. ●

A promotional graphic for NASW-NC webinars. It features a background image of a person's hands writing on a notepad. Overlaid on the image is the text: "EARN UP TO 20 OF YOUR CE HOURS ONLINE" in a smaller font, followed by "NASW-NC WEBINARS" in a large, bold, black font, and "WWW.NASWNC.ORG" at the bottom in a smaller font.

EARN UP TO 20 OF YOUR  
CE HOURS ONLINE  
**NASW-NC WEBINARS**  
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## Valerie Arendt, MSW, MPP

Executive Director

### Elevate Social Work: Join a Statewide Board or Commission

North Carolina has hundreds of statewide boards and commissions. These public commissions are the perfect platform for social workers to share their knowledge and expertise and to elevate the social work profession at the state level. Boards and commissions generally make recommendations to the state on improving services and defining best practices for a variety of issues in North Carolina. Commissions rely heavily on their members to bring forward needs and solutions to address community problems. Appointments to boards and commissions are made by the Governor and the North Carolina House of Representatives and Senate leadership.

Currently, NASW-NC members are serving on the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging; the Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services; Social Services Commission, and more. Here is a list of several committees that will have vacancies soon and that social workers could provide a voice to:

- [Commission for the Blind](#)
- [Developmental Disabilities Council](#)
- [Medical Care Commission](#)
- [Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services](#)
- [Social Work Certification and Licensure Board](#)
- [Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board](#)

See a full list of Boards and Commissions and find out more about each one, <https://bc.governor.nc.gov>. Most committees meet monthly or quarterly and members are generally appointed for a 2-year term with reappointment possible. Appointments are typically made in June and December of each year. To apply, <https://bc.governor.nc.gov/Apply>.

**If you are interested in serving on a commission and being recommended by NASW North Carolina ([bit.ly/2VF6PM9](https://bit.ly/2VF6PM9)), please contact Valerie Arendt at [varendt.naswnc@socialworkers.org](mailto:varendt.naswnc@socialworkers.org). NASW-NC makes recommendations for these open positions often and can contact the Governor's office directly on your behalf. References are needed when applying and they may also contact the Governor's office directly. Reaching out to the specific board or commission chair directly to let them know of your interest in participating may increase your chance of being appointed, as will including a cover letter with your resume, drawing attention to and highlighting your experience that directly correlates to the commission that you are applying for.**

If you are an NASW-NC member already serving on a board or commission, please let us know so we can better support you. ●



## Congratulations to NASW-NC Member Jessica Holton!

Newly Elected Chair of NASW's  
National Committee on Nominations  
and Leadership Identification (NCNLI)

# NASW-NC Chapter Staff

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## NASW Mission

Founded in 1955, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world, with more than 120,000 members. NASW works to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain standards for the profession, and to advance sound social policies. NASW also contributes to the well-being of individuals, families, and communities through its work and advocacy.



# New "Going Back-to-School with Social Workers" Campaign

By Natasha Scott, EdD, MSW  
NASW-NC Board Member

School social workers from across the country assembled in Orlando, Florida from April 3rd through 6th for the School Social Work Association of America's (SSWAA) 22nd annual National School Social Work Conference. During the conference, NASW and SSWAA offered a joint session to highlight the partnership between the two associations to launch a national campaign to increase the visibility of school social work at the local and state level. Dr. Michelle Alvarez, SSWAA President, Ms. Takia Richardson, NASW Senior Practice Associate, and Ms. Kashera Robinson, school social worker (Georgia), facilitated the session.

The campaign, "Going Back-to-School with Social Workers," is currently in the development stages. It is expected to begin this summer. The public education campaign will include an online School Social Work media toolkit, nationally distributed editorials discussing the benefits of school social workers, articles highlighting back-to-school tips for students and parents on NASW's [HelpStartsHere.org](http://HelpStartsHere.org) website, an NASW Social Work Talks podcast series, and other social media tools (i.e. Twitter hashtag, Facebook frame, etc.). The campaign hopes to raise awareness of the roles of these professionals, raise the morale of school social workers, and encourage school districts to hire more school social workers.

Collaboration between the two associations to promote the profession is timely. In the aftermath of school shootings and increased child mental health issues, many school districts are looking for ways to increase school safety. Furthermore, as school staff grapple with the achievement gap between majority



Left to Right – Takia Richardson, NASW; Dr. Michelle Alvarez, SSWAA President; Dr. Natasha Scott, NASW-NC Board Member

and minority students, school dropout rates, and poverty related issues, the need for interventions to address barriers to academic performance is ever pressing. Increasing students' access to school-based mental health professionals such as school social workers is one way to address the concerns. NASW recommends a student-to-social worker ratio of 250:1. However, the ACLU (2019) reports that the current ratio is 1584:1 in North Carolina. This means that there are students attending schools in our state without social workers

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*"I am astounded by where I am today versus where I was when I started."*

– Triangle Springs Patient

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# Welcome New Members!

NASW-NC would like to welcome the following new members who joined during the months of February, March, and April! Thank you for choosing to support your profession and advocate for social work values by joining NASW.

## Coastal District (A)

Toshieka Artis  
LaToya Bryant  
Lauren Cohen  
Liza Daniel  
Phallon Dayvault  
Nicole Deen  
Priscilla Delano  
Sarah Gist  
Luis Hernandez  
Megan Hiner  
Sarit Johnson  
Crystal Jones  
Brittany McKeon  
Darlene Parker  
Terry Pierce  
Elizabeth Reed  
Desdemonia Taylor  
Carrie Thigpen  
Tonette Wardlow  
Alyssa Waymire  
Sharice Williams

## Central District (B)

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Christina Allen  
DeAnn Alphin  
Rebecca Baker  
Laura Berger  
Brad Berggren  
Blair Berhow-Goll  
Michael Brezenski  
Lauren Briggs  
Orlando Bullock  
Cameron Burleson  
Indonesia Carter  
Erika Cervantes  
Lilia Chavez  
Coleen Chin  
Meredith Duncan  
Tiffany Eller  
Michael Fenning  
Kimberly Field  
Sara Forcella  
Cassandra Fortune  
Beth Gaudette  
Jamie Gutterman  
Aileen Harris  
Hilary Herron  
Davonda Holloway  
Chelsea Hughes  
Jazmyne Jones  
Gina Kabat  
Negin Kempf

Jesalyn Keziah  
Rozie Khashmanian  
Piper King  
Mara Klem-O'Connor  
Kendall Kopchick  
Rachel Lundberg  
Neely Mariee  
Blair Marini  
Tania Martinez  
Graig Meyer  
Paul Morea  
Carla Mullins  
Barsham Murphy  
Dori Oxendine  
Kerri Patrick  
Emily Rabb  
Daniella Rivera  
Lauren Sadler  
Thomas Reginald Scott  
Madeline Spear  
Sarah Sterling  
Philip Terry  
Sheila Thomas  
Leah Tugwell  
Kaitlyn Viera  
Dontez Ward  
Kiersten Warner  
Bruce White  
Monique White  
Andrea Wiley  
Diamond Wilson  
LaVoya Woods-Dionne

## Piedmont District (C)

Janice Braxton  
Maggie Brown  
Dominique Coles  
Precious Crews  
Rachael Everett  
Caleb Evington  
Dina Exavier  
Jennifer Farrell  
Brenda Forbes  
Tasha Furr  
Jerrica Garner  
Anna Geinosky  
Ashlyn Hodges  
Hannah Kelley  
Shcaleah Kelton  
Wendy Lewis  
Jamilia Mitchell  
Jeri Murphy  
Sophire Nelson  
Erin Odooy

Ada Ortiz  
Margurite Reaves  
Corina Relyea  
Chaney Riddick  
Meredith Rumbley  
Alison Russo  
Teja Smith  
Olivia Smith  
Britta Starke  
Jaclyn Tyson  
Cheryl Velasquez  
Joyita Wiley  
Amber Wysor

## South Piedmont District (D)

Elizabeth Abowd  
Anita Allen  
Edward Bindewald  
Alonzo Booker  
Michelle Bradford  
Breanna Burton  
Saiona Caldwell  
Bethany Castrejon  
Simonya Clark  
Oldain Claxton  
John Conway  
Tammie Elliott  
Kimberly Ernst  
Mackenzie Everett  
MaryCaroline Gibson  
Lydia Grier  
Annette Hailer  
Katia Hamdan  
Leigh Hayes  
Robin Hayes  
Samantha Hester  
Brittany Hosford  
Beverly Hyde  
Shelly Lee  
Elizabeth Leinbach  
Brittany Little  
Sabrina Mackey  
Clifford Matthews  
Molly McDonnell  
Mikayla McDowell  
Katherine McKenna  
Tillie Mitchell  
Francisca Odoemena  
Katherine O'Reilly  
Hannah Oxendine  
Amit Patel  
Karen Powell  
Joseph Ramos

Angela Reid  
Claudia Ribas  
Diane Richardson  
Allyson Robinson  
DeKorera Sawyer  
Ashley Schlieper  
Taylor Smith  
Halleli Stav  
Melissa Thompson  
Jenee Thorsell  
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Sara Yang  
Thais Yeon  
Caitlyn Yesavage

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Samantha Laughter  
Jenny Lopez  
Linda Madson  
Samantha Morgan  
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Tamara Rice  
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Isaac Smith  
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Tonia Bailey  
Allegha Baldwin

Aneshia Brown  
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Melinda Cooper  
Kenyetta Cooper  
T'Asia Covington  
Mechelle Downs  
Holly Eggers  
Sarah Freeman  
Angela Gore  
Virginia Green  
Myeshia Hailey  
Eric Hall  
Kim Harold-Maples  
Ebony Hayes  
Annette Hoban  
Rebecca Locklear  
Tia Lowery  
Vanessa Mattice-Allen  
Merlene May  
Trysha Mazzola  
LaQuita McBride  
Mary-Christine McGuire  
Danielle McLean  
Ze'Tonya McNair-McMillan  
Daniela Mexicano  
Matthew Miles  
Driessa Parker  
Joshua Peele  
Erica Powell  
Lawrence Primus  
Alejandra Reyes  
Gail Rinehart  
Tanisha Rolle  
Kathleen Scott  
Zydet Short  
Kimberly Smith  
Brittanie Smith  
Danielle Sutton  
Tarys Thomas  
Montgomery Thomas  
Donovon Vaughn  
Jim Walters  
Alecia Weldon

## Out-of-State

Kristin Hahn  
Jordan Kellogg  
Evelyn Murrell

# Congratulations New BSW and MSW Graduates!

Questions? Concerns? Anxieties? NASW-NC is here to help!





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## Ph.D. program information

Please visit [ssw.unc.edu/programs/doctoral](https://ssw.unc.edu/programs/doctoral) for information on our Ph.D. program.

For more information about admission to our School or to schedule a campus visit, please email [mswadmissions@unc.edu](mailto:mswadmissions@unc.edu)





**Ravita T. Omabu Okafor,**  
**MSW, LCSW**

NASW-NC Ethics Committee Chair

## Privacy and Confidentiality: Ethics in Action

**H**ow long have you practiced professional social work? Whether you have a few months or decades of service, do you staunchly safeguard clients' rights to privacy and confidentiality? Do you consider the terms synonymous? Do you believe circumstances can dull social workers' sensibilities regarding the absolutely essential ethical standard of protecting information clients share. When you review the NASW Code of Ethics (2017), can you see how privacy and confidentiality inherently inhabit each ethical standard? Clients make themselves vulnerable by disclosing private, sensitive information, believing they retain power and control over who becomes privy to this information. Without this assurance, there is no therapeutic environment. Let us renew our commitment to honoring this privileged confidence whether we work in private practice, interdisciplinary settings (e.g., hospitals, schools, primary care facilities, group homes, etc.), or via telehealth.

NASW Code of Ethics (2017) Standards 10.7 (a) and 1.07 (c) require professional social workers to "respect clients' right to privacy," and "protect the confidentiality of all information obtained in the course of professional service, except for compelling professional reasons." Let us pause to reflect over clients' decisions to seek out a professional with whom they can reveal delicate details of themselves and their lives. In contracting with clients for services, we accept ethical and legal responsibilities for safeguarding that information at the time of disclosure, after the client leaves our presence, after they complete services, and even after the death of a client or social worker. Coworkers, other professionals, the client's relatives, the client's employer, and others may believe they have a right to access any and all information the client shared during the professional service; however, even when there is a valid authorization to release information, NASW Code of Ethics (2017) Standard 1.07 (c) mandates that:

In all instances, social workers should disclose the least amount of confidential information necessary to achieve the desired purpose; only information that is directly relevant to the purpose for which the disclosure is made should be revealed.

**School Social Work** continued from Page 4

despite increasing social, emotional, and behavior needs.

In line with the public education campaign launched by NASW and SSWAA, individual school social workers must also advocate for the profession. In the name of confidentiality and protecting student's rights, school social workers often work behind the scenes with individual students and families (Sherman, 2016). This means we rarely see them in action as they navigate crises, provide individual and group counseling, broker and link families to services, and implement interventions.

There are many ways that school social workers can ethically tell their stories. One way is to routinely collect and share data about the services provided and student outcomes with key stakeholders such as school administrators, school board members, and parents. Another way is to become active members of state and national organizations such as NASW and SSWAA. In addition to lobbying for pertinent causes, these organizations help social workers stay abreast

Koocher & Keith-Spiegel (2016) assert that privacy "... involves the basic entitlement of people to decide how much of their property, thoughts, feelings, or personal data to share with others" and further proclaim that "the concept of privacy [is] a basic human right due all people and not simply limited to ... clients." (p. 150)

Regarding confidentiality, Koocher & Keith-Spiegel (2016) define it as "... a general standard of professional conduct that obliges a professional not to discuss information about a client with anyone.... privacy has seemed essential to ensure human dignity and freedom of self-determination.... confidentiality implies an explicit contract or promise not to reveal anything about a client except under certain circumstances agreed to by both parties." (p. 151)

While privacy and confidentiality have ethical and legal aspects, my focus in this article is on the ethical application. I hope you will survey your daily actions to determine whether you protect clients' privacy and confidentiality according to professional social work standards. If you realize you have compromised your commitment to clients by failing to protect their best interests in the ways you manage information they shared, stop. Maintain awareness of your adherence to these concepts, offer reminders/education to others, review forms to ensure they meet informed consent standards, and revisit expectations with clients periodically.

Your NASW-NC Chapter Ethics Committee remains available for ethics consultation. Please note that this service is free **only** to NASW-NC members with questions about cases in which they have direct involvement. To access this service, send an email to [naswncethics@gmail.com](mailto:naswncethics@gmail.com) or call 919-828-9650 or 800-280-6207/extension 300. ●

### References:

Koocher, G.P. & Keith-Spiegel, P. (2016). *Ethics in Psychology and the Mental Health Professions: Standards and Cases* (4th Ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.

National Association of Social Workers. (2017). *NASW code of ethics*. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English>

of state and national issues that require advocacy. Individual social workers can make their voice count by writing letters, networking, and participating in advocacy events with local and state government officials.

School social workers are one of the best-kept secrets in public education. However, increased visibility of these professionals is needed. By giving voice to the accomplishments, challenges, and perspectives of school social work we position stakeholders to better understand and appreciate the roles and contributions of school social workers. In turn, the profession is strengthened. ●

### References

ACLU. (2019). *Race, Discipline, and Safety at US Public Schools*. Retrieved from <https://www.aclu.org/issues/juvenile-justice/school-prison-pipeline/race-discipline-and-safety-us-public-schools>

Sherman, M. C. (2016). The school social worker: A marginalized commodity within the school ecosystem. *Children & Schools*, 38(3), 147- 151.



**Hope Venetta**

Director of Professional Development

## Advice for New Social Work Graduates

**C**ongratulations new graduates! It was a lot of hard work and you made it. Now, things are about to get real. Whether you have just graduated with your BSW, or your MSW, here are some professional development tips for new graduates as they join the ranks of the profession.

### Network, network, network

Data suggests that a common way individuals find work is through a friend, family member, or former colleague who told them about an opportunity. So if you're having trouble finding that job, don't only rely on job board postings, but work on developing a network of people who know you and your capabilities. They're often a great way to find a job. NASW-NC offers excellent ways to connect to the social work community through Local Program Units, Practice Area Networks, volunteer opportunities, and our continuing education conferences.

### Never stop learning

When social workers continue to be curious about their clients and the world around them, there is endless opportunity for reflection and professional growth. Reading field-related publications, taking additional specialization or other professional development courses, listening to podcasts or watching webinars, and staying current in the field will help you become a well-rounded social worker.

### Be courageous enough to blaze a trail

Social workers are a resourceful bunch who see solutions where none exist. Maya Angelou shared a time-tested

method that worked for her when she needed new solutions in her life. I think it is perfect advice for any new professional. "My paternal grandmother, Mrs. Annie Henderson, gave me advice that I have used for 65 years. She said, 'If the world puts you on a road you do not like, if you look ahead and do not want that destination which is being offered and you look behind and you do not want to return to your place of departure, step off the road. Build yourself a new path.'"

### Remember self-care

Social work is a tough field. Burnout is common. As you dive in to help society's most vulnerable, consider the words of Ariana Huffington as she reflects on the self-care advice she would give to her younger self. "Arianna, your performance will actually improve if you can commit to not only working hard but also unplugging, recharging, and renewing yourself." How will you make self-care a regular part of your professional life?

Again, congratulations graduates! Well done. At NASW-NC we are cheering you on as you begin a new chapter and join your colleagues in the field. Hopefully, I will be meeting you at a conference in the near future.

Quotes were taken from <https://www.businessinsider.com/best-career-advice-for-new-grads-2016-5>

Looking for CE? Don't forget about the members-only NASW-NC CE Calendar which usually lists over 90 events across North Carolina! Be sure to log in! [www.naswnc.org/events](http://www.naswnc.org/events) ●

Licensure continued from Page 1

serious bi-partisan support and compromise. This is exactly why we have both Democrat and Republican sponsors of HB 203.

NASW-NC worked very hard to correct this issue and to have the language of HB 203 inserted into another bill. NASW-NC was concerned the legislation would not make crossover, the date that bills must pass the House OR the Senate to be taken up during the remainder of the legislative session. As a result, NASW-NC worked with legislative leadership and other partners to combine three bills.

We are ecstatic to report that [House Bill 678](#) Amend Counselors/Substance Abuse/Social Work Practice Act passed the North Carolina House of Representatives on May 2 with a vote of 114-0.

**NASW-NC has your back! Without our advocacy and relationships with legislators, this legislation would not have advanced! We were the only organization seeking to advance this legislation on behalf of the social work profession.** This is not over yet. We will now work equally as hard to get this bill through the Senate and signed into law by Governor Cooper.

Your NASW membership is critical to our profession and I implore you to spread the word to your social work colleagues. Share this information with them when they tell you they aren't a member of NASW. We often hear, "NASW doesn't do anything for me, membership is too expensive." In addition to the many benefits your membership provides you, I hope above all it provides you with a form of self-care. NASW membership ensures someone is always advocating for you and our amazing profession. ●



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## Kay Castillo, BSW

Director of Advocacy, Policy & Legislation  
Registered Lobbyist

## 2019 Legislative Session Updates

The North Carolina Legislature has been in full swing since January. In the last newsletter, I updated you on the [NASW-NC Legislative Agenda \(bit.ly/2019LegAgenda\)](https://bit.ly/2019LegAgenda) that was drafted by the NASW-NC Legislative Committee and then approved by the NASW-NC Board of Directors.

Below are updates on several NASW-NC priorities and how we have been advocating on YOUR behalf.

### Social Work Certification and Licensure Act Changes

[House Bill 203](#) Amend Social Work Practice Act is legislation on which NASW-NC has been working with the North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board. We worked with legislators to introduce this bill to make necessary changes to Chapter 90B in order to remain in compliance with the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), the entity that designs and implements the qualifying national social work examinations for the North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board. If this legislation does not pass into law, North Carolina will not be able to continue to use the national clinical social work exam. **We are happy to report that this legislation was added to House Bill 678 and passed the North Carolina House of Representatives on Thursday, May 2nd!** Check out NASW-NC Executive Director, Valerie Arendt's article on Page 1 for more information about this bill.

### Health Information Exchange Authority Delay

This has been a huge priority for NASW-NC this session! [House Bill 70](#) Delay NC HealthConnex for Certain Providers would delay behavioral health providers, including clinical social workers and clinical social work associates, to connect to NC HealthConnex until June 1, 2020. The current deadline is June 1, 2019. The bill also allows for hardship exemptions. NASW-NC worked diligently to ensure the bill was introduced on behalf of our members. The bill passed the House on March 27th with no opposition. NASW-NC is now working to get the bill heard in the Senate. If the bill passes the Senate, it will be signed into law by the Governor and will give social workers an additional year to connect!

### Ban Conversion Therapy

[House Bill 516/Senate Bill 426](#) Mental Health Protection Act bans conversion therapy for minors and disabled adults. See [NASW-NC's Press Release \(bit.ly/2LgOPFM\)](#) about the legislation and [this WRAL article \(bit.ly/2J7yVcf\)](#) mentioning NASW-NC's support. NASW-NC has been working with Equality NC to help advance this issue. In conjunction with the legislation, NASW-NC launched a [resource page for social workers \(bit.ly/2vsDkP7\)](#)!

### School Social Work

NASW-NC received great news recently! The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) plans to hire a School Social Work Coordinator soon! This is a position NASW-NC has been advocating for with legislators and DPI! We are THRILLED DPI prioritized this position and found funding to establish it despite not receiving state funding for this position specifically.

Additionally, a bill filed to help school social workers in their work with youth will be heard in a House Committee soon. [House Bill 613](#) Essential Services for Homeless Youth allows for unaccompanied homeless youth to receive

behavioral health services, as well as optometry and dentistry services, without a legal guardian present. North Carolina Public schools identified 2,650 unaccompanied homeless youth enrolled in school in the 2016-17 school year. The bill allows for documentation of homeless status from a school social worker as well as several others listed in the bill to be acceptable for the youth to receive services. NASW-NC worked with Representative Susan Fisher from Buncombe County to get this legislation introduced and this bill is advancing through committees.

### Medicaid Expansion and Access to Healthcare

[House Bill 5/Senate Bill 3](#) Close the Medicaid Coverage Gap: This legislation would expand Medicaid in North Carolina thus closing the insurance coverage gap for thousands of North Carolinians and allow them access to needed services like behavioral health treatment. Filed January 31 and referred to House Health/Senate Rules. [NASW-NC Talking Points \(bit.ly/2GFxeQs\)](#) can be found on our website.

Lastly, House leadership filed [House Bill 655](#) NC Health Care for Working Families: This legislation would require premiums and work requirements to qualify for a North Carolina solution to Medicaid Expansion. It is not a clean Medicaid expansion option.

### Criminal Justice

NASW-NC was invited to present to the North Carolina Senate Select Committee on Prison Safety on April 29. Kay Castillo, NASW-NC Director of Advocacy, Policy and Legislation and Robin Huffman, the Executive Director of the NC Psychiatric Association gave a presentation on mental health and prison safety advocating for better mental health services in prisons and upon inmate release. We have been involved with these groups for a number of years on a Prison Advisory Committee meeting on and off with DPS after the deaths of several inmates with mental illness over the years. Meeting materials can be found on the [North Carolina Legislative Website \(bit.ly/2Vbyg11\)](#)!

[Senate Bill 668/House Bill 682](#) Capital Procedure/Severe Disability: This legislation would amend capital trial, sentencing, and post-conviction procedures for persons with a severe mental disability. Further, it prevents a claim of insanity from being an option as a defense to a criminal action if prior alcohol and/or drug use are the sole cause of the psychosis or if voluntary intoxication and/or a voluntary drugged condition are the sole support for the defense. This legislation brings in line mental illness with intellectual disability in capital procedures.

### Abortion

[Senate Bill 359](#) Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act: This legislation would require any child born alive after an abortion to be considered a legal person and should be protected as so regarding medical care. Providers would have to render appropriate care based on the gestational age and admit the baby into the hospital. This legislation passed the House and Senate and the Governor vetoed the bill. The Senate voted to override the veto and the House is expected to take action soon.

*\*Due to the nature of the North Carolina Legislature, bills progress are subject to change. Sign up to receive our weekly updates to stay up to date! <https://cqrceengage.com/socialworkersnc> ●*



# An Attack on North Carolinians' Reproductive Rights and Right to Access an Abortion

By Lynne Walter, MSW  
NASW-NC Legislative Committee



In lieu of ensuring that 500,000+ North Carolinians gain access to healthcare, or passing a bill so North Carolina remains in compliance with the Association of Social Work Boards (the entity that designs and implements the qualifying national social work examinations for the North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board), or increasing funding for school social workers to bring North Carolina to the recommended national levels of 1 social worker per every 250 students, or banning sexual orientation change efforts (so-called “conversion therapy”), as of April 25, 2019, anti-abortion legislators in the North Carolina General Assembly have instead introduced more than 10 anti-abortion and anti-reproductive health care bills that are not based in science or medicine.

One of those bills that has been in the news lately is [S359](#), which seeks to intimidate patients and targets health care providers who provide safe and legal abortion care with the threat of serious criminal penalty. S359 is insulting and is based on a false narrative, because it implies that healthcare providers give unethical and substandard care. This bill ultimately seeks to demonize and criminalize doctors and other healthcare providers and to ban abortion.

As social workers, we know that all of us deserve access to healthcare based on our medical needs and our healthcare provider's best judgement, not political ideology. Colleagues in other healthcare fields have also spoken out against these kinds of bills: The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists [strongly opposes the almost identical federal bill](#) ([bit.ly/2VAyIoO](#)) that was defeated recently in the U.S. Senate, calling it a “gross interference in the practice of medicine.”

Why does this matter to social workers? Because we, as social workers, are governed by our [NASW Code of Ethics](#) ([bit.ly/NASWEthics](#)), which says our “primary responsibility is to promote the well-being of clients,” that we must “respect and promote the right of clients to self-determination,” that we must “act to prevent and eliminate domination of, exploitation of, and discrimination of” people, and that we only provide services based on valid informed consent, including providing people and communities with whom we work with factual and medically accurate information.

Furthermore, one of the items on [NASW-NC's 2019 Legislative Agenda](#) ([bit.ly/2019LegAgenda](#)) is, “[o]ppose any and all efforts to restrict people's access to abortion and reproductive health care, restrict providers' ability to fully practice within the scope of their profession, and restrict young people's access to factual and medically accurate comprehensive sexuality education.”

Another reason the concerning onslaught of anti-abortion bills matters to us as social workers is as a result of our education and training in policy analysis, we see these bills for what they truly are: Messaging bills that Republicans want to use for the 2020 election. We know that these bills are simply attacks on our rights and are attacks that play political games with our ability to access reproductive health care and abortion care. We know that if Republicans in the North Carolina General Assembly actually cared about these bills, they would have passed them during the last 10 years when they held super majorities in the NC House and the NC Senate. The mere fact that they are trying to ram them through now speaks volumes to their true intentions—to use our reproductive rights and our right to bodily autonomy as political fodder to appeal to their anti-abortion base.

So, as social workers, what can we do? Luckily for us, our NASW Code of Ethics gives us the answer: Section 6.04! Section 6.04 tells us we must engage in social and political action, and here are three easy ways we can each do that right now: 1) Contact Governor Cooper by phone—(919) 814-2000—and [online](#) ([bit.ly/2VwbDUg](#)) to thank him for vetoing the inflammatory S359; 2) [Contact your members](#) ([bit.ly/2LgzBIX](#)) of the North Carolina House and North Carolina Senate to tell them to sustain Governor Cooper's veto; and 3) Invite your friends over to your house for a phone calling, emailing, and postcard writing party to thank Governor Cooper and tell your state legislators to uphold the veto.

Sadly, it appears social workers will have no shortage of opportunities to carry out Section 6.04 of our NASW Code of Ethics this legislative session. We must fight for the right to access medically accurate and comprehensive reproductive care, including abortion, and fight so this right is never impeded due to political agendas. Decisions about abortion care and reproductive health care must be left up to each person and their healthcare provider, not politicians.

*Lynne Walter, MSW, is a member of NASW-NC's Legislative Committee and is the Advocacy and Organizing Manager at NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina. ●*



## CONGRATULATIONS TO 2019 TOBY BROWN AWARD WINNER

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# Medicaid Transformation: How Social Workers Can Prepare

By Kay Castillo, BSW, Director of Advocacy,  
Policy and Legislation; Registered Lobbyist

The past few years, NASW-NC has been sharing information with members regarding North Carolina's pending change to Medicaid. Now, the deadline for social workers to panel with Standard Plans is here!

## Standard vs Tailored Plans

**Standard Plans:** The plans that will manage care for those with primary physical health care needs. Mild to moderate behavioral health care will be provided in Standard Plans so it is important for these plans to have an adequate network of behavioral health providers. Should an enrollee need more comprehensive care or their health status changes, they can change and be served under the Tailored Plan option. Who will be providing the care for Standard Plans? [Five companies won the bid earlier this year \(bit.ly/2LsF85J\)](https://www.nasw-nc.org/news/2019/05/15/five-companies-won-the-bid-earlier-this-year) to become Prepaid Health Plans (PHPs): AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina, Inc; Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina; UnitedHealthcare of North Carolina, Inc.; and WellCare of North Carolina, Inc. PHPs will offer plans in all regions and Carolina Complete Health will offer plans in Regions 3 & 5.

More information on regions and who is included can be found on the [North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services website \(bit.ly/2WifdP4\)](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/providers).

**Tailored Plans:** The plans that will manage care for those with primary behavioral health needs. These plans will be more "tailored" to individual needs and will offer care management to help enrollees navigate the system. Who will be providing care for Tailored Plans? This bid has not

happened yet. The Tailored Plans are still in the design phase and NASW-NC has a seat at the table to help design these plans! [We welcome your feedback!](#)

## Important Dates

**\*\* Starting NOW providers should enroll in Standard Plans\*\*** PHPs must accept any willing provider. More information on provider enrollment can be found online at <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/provider-enrollment>.

- **July 15, 2019:** Open enrollment into Standard Plans (phase 1 including regions 2 and 4) begins for Medicaid patients. Outreach efforts will be made to help enroll patients.
- **September 13, 2019:** Open enrollment (phase 1) ends for Medicaid patients.
- **October 14, 2019:** Open enrollment (phase 2 including regions 1, 3, 5, and 6) begins.
- **November 1, 2019:** Standard Plans go live for those that enrolled in phase 1!
- **December 13, 2019:** Open enrollment (phase 2) ends.

Need further assistance? Visit <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/providers> for more information, provider webinars, and information to help your patients transition to this care as well.

## What's Next?

NASW-NC will continue to work with the Department of Health and Human Services to design the Tailored Plans. We will release information as it becomes available. Tailored Plans will go live in July 2021. ●



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# Seeing the Connections: Climate Change and Migration

By Meredith C.F. Powers,  
PhD, MSW  
Assistant Professor and  
Sustainability Fellow at  
UNC-Greensboro



As social workers we are taught to see how things are interconnected-person in environment. We often work in situations to intervene with service users when the environment is no longer healthy or sustainable, such as in a case of domestic violence, where we would encourage the person to move themselves out of harm's way, while also working to provide intervention services to the victim and perpetrator. Or in a case with an older adult who may need to move from their home to an assisted living facility for increased health care and socialization benefits. Well, the same is true for understanding cases of migration. We have to look at the whole environment to see what may be problematic in the social, political, economic, and/or ecological environment, making it inhospitable, and even dangerous for people living in those situations.

For over two and a half decades, I have worked at the nexus of climate change and migration, having been a refugee and immigration specialist for over a decade in direct practice, an English as a Second or Other Language (ESOL) teacher to adults, and now as a professor, teaching and overseeing students during their internships with the refugee and immigrant populations. During this time, I have found great joy in welcoming immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers to our community. I found personal and professional satisfaction as their case manager in helping to get them established in schools, work, and helping them as they learned to navigate their new communities and eventually found a new sense of normal. I was struck by their resilience and hope, despite all they had been through, and I was also confronted with my own secondary PTSD as I listened to their stories of horrific events, forced migration, and family separations. Many times, I went home at night, weeping for their pain and suffering and the world in which we live that created such wicked problems.

This work caused me to question the "why?": Why are people migrating in the first place? And, then, it led me to look for answers of "how" we can work to prevent these issues from happening, so that people can migrate out of desire alone and not out of desperation. The more I worked with this population and studied in my social work education, the more I started seeing the connections between climate change and migration. I started to realize that their stories of political unrest, war, famine, disaster, economic hardship, all of the reasons they indicated, led back to the environment and was exacerbated by climate change. Whether the environment was slowly degrading and becoming inhospitable for growing crops and sustaining livelihood, or whether people were fighting over natural resources, either locally or with international political powers at play, or whether there was a catastrophic disaster-these environmental issues all led to forced migration. (For

more on this see the open access article "Environmental Migration: Social Work at the Nexus of Climate Change and Global Migration.")<sup>1</sup>

As a result of these professional endeavors, I have been on a lifetime journey to help social workers see our role in addressing climate change and the related environmental injustices<sup>2</sup>, such as forced migration. This has led to one of my current roles as a co-leader at UNCG on the Humanities Action Lab (HAL) Climate Migration consortium<sup>3</sup> with Rutgers University and our local partner, FaithAction International House<sup>4</sup> in Greensboro. Within this project, I have trained and led students as researchers in interviewing immigrants and refugees in the Greater Greensboro community to see what were some of the "push factors" of climate change that created the need for migration, and what are some of the current environmental injustices they face as they have resettled in the community. This data is currently being analyzed and will be integrated in the HAL national traveling exhibition for awareness and advocacy. This journey has also led to my partnership with an amazing colleague to co-edit a workbook series full of incredible chapters written by social workers all over the world: Social Work Promoting Sustainable Communities and Environments, published by the International Federation of Social Workers<sup>5,6</sup> (free pdf downloads).

Educating ourselves about climate change and what we can do to promote sustainable communities and environments is one way we can create positive change in our world to prevent unnecessary, forced migration in the first place. And, as we already have a climate crisis, we can work to promote environmental justice and to continue welcoming those who migrate, affirming their human right to "freedom of movement"<sup>7</sup> and working with organizations such as FaithAction International House and El Pueblo, Inc. in Raleigh who are actively seeking to come alongside and empower immigrant communities to fight for rights and against policies such as HB 370<sup>8</sup>. ●

## References

- 1 Powers, M. C. F., Schmitz, C. L., Matthews, M., & Nsonwu, C. (2018). Environmental Migration: Social Work at the Nexus of Climate Change and Global Migration. *Advances in Social Work*, 18(3). Special issue on "Social Work with Migrants and Refugees: Challenges, Best Practices, and Future Directions". <http://journals.iupui.edu/index.php/advancesinsocialwork/article/view/21678/22063>
- 2 Powers, M.C.F. (Nov. 2018). "Disaster, Environmental Justice, and Eco-Therapy: Social Work in the Face of Climate Change". *The North Carolina Social Work Newsletter* November/December/January 2018-2019 V. XLII No. 4 [https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.naswnc.org/resource/resmgr/newsletter/NovDecJan\\_2018\\_Newsletter.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.naswnc.org/resource/resmgr/newsletter/NovDecJan_2018_Newsletter.pdf)
- 3 <https://www.humanitiesactionlab.org/projects>
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- 6 Social Work Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability, Vol.2. Eds. Powers & Rinkel (2018). <https://www.ifsw.org/product/books/social-work-promoting-community-and-environmental-sustainability/>
- 7 Freedom of Movement. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom\\_of\\_movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_movement)
- 8 El Pueblo, Inc. CALL YOUR SENATOR TODAY, URGING THEM TO VOTE NO ON HB 370. <https://elpueblo.org/stop-hb-370/>



# New NASW Membership Dues as of July 1, 2019

On July 1, 2019, NASW will increase membership dues for the first time in four years, by 5% across all member types. This increase comes after careful review by NASW's Board and staff leadership.

NASW provides a robust portfolio of valuable resources, including standards and practice information, legal and ethics guidance, social work news and journals, a network of 100,000 peers, a research library of 25 social science databases, and extensive continuing education resources. In addition, NASW is your voice in Washington, D.C. and in state capitals nationwide, shaping sound social policies around the issues affecting you professionally, and impacting the populations you serve. NASW works for social justice and to ensure adequate and fair compensation for social workers. Your membership dues are a crucial investment in the causes you care about and in your own professional development.

For more information on the dues increase, visit <http://bit.ly/2019DuesIncrease>. If you have questions, please contact Seth Maid, NASW-NC Director of Membership and Communication, at [membership.naswnc@socialworkers.org](mailto:membership.naswnc@socialworkers.org).

NASW Dues as of July 1, 2019	
Member Type	Dues Rate
MSW, DSW/PhD, Associate, Foreign	\$236
BSW	\$158
BSW Student, MSW Student, Associate Student	\$60
BSW Transitional, MSW Transitional	\$116
Doctoral Student, 3rd Year MSW Transitional	\$179
Retired, Reduced, Gold	\$74

## Call for Proposals for the 2019 Annual Fall Conference

Due July 31, 2019 | Submit Your Proposal at [www.naswnc.org](http://www.naswnc.org)



Do you know of caregivers in the community who would benefit from personalized coaching? Coping Dementia Training is piloting a program that will go to caregivers home provide education on disease, stress and behavior management and communication skills. The ideal situation would be to have the whole family unit receive this education to alleviate misconceptions and unrealistic expectations. Understanding dementia, entering the person with dementia reality is key to enjoying the remaining time they have together. Please contact me for further information.

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The University of Utah is seeking two cognitive behavioral therapists for research study testing treatments for suicidal Marines at Camp Lejeune. Training/supervision provided by internationally-recognized suicide researchers. Summer 2019 start date. Primary duties: provide manualized CBT to suicidal active duty Marines, conduct structured assessments & diagnostic interviews. Masters or doctorate in clinical social work, clinical psychology, or counseling psychology required.

Prior military experience & manualized CBT experience preferred.

Send letter of interest, resume, three recommendations to Dr. Lauren Khazem:  
[lauren.khazem@utah.edu](mailto:lauren.khazem@utah.edu)

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# NASW-NC Board of Directors Meeting

By Valerie Arendt, MSW, MPP; Executive Director

The NASW-NC Chapter Board of Directors met in the Chapter office on Saturday, March 23 for a regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting. Board discussion focused mainly on the bills NASW-NC has been working on during the legislative session, the Chapter's Fiscal Year 2020 budget and the upcoming Chapter Board of Directors election. A slate of candidates was presented to the board by Lorraine Bolduc, the Chair of the Chapter Committee for Nominations and Leadership Identification. A detailed discussion was held in closed session so that positions and candidates could be reviewed confidentially. The board approved the slate which went out to the membership for voting in early April.

The following actions were taken by the board:

- "I move to accept the January 26, 2019 meeting minutes with the presented changes." Motion made by Jason Scianno. Seconded Deborah Moore. Motion carried.

- "I move to approve the NASW-NC FY 2020 budget as presented." Motion made by Logan Keziah-Hamill. Seconded by Amanda Flory. Motion carried.
- "I move to approve the 2019 NASW-NC Board of Directors Election slate, with the addition of the three MSW Representative candidates who were present at the March 23rd Board meeting." Motion made by Leslie Cloninger. Seconded by Jason Scianno. Motion carried.
- "I move to remove the MSW Representative from the Board, due to missed meetings." Made by Jason Scianno. Seconded by Logan Keziah-Hamill. Motion carried.

The NASW-NC Board of Directors will meet at the NASW-NC office in Raleigh on May 18, 2019. Chapter board meetings are open to the membership. NASW-NC members wishing to attend should contact Chapter Executive Director Valerie Arendt at [director.naswnc@socialworkers.org](mailto:director.naswnc@socialworkers.org).



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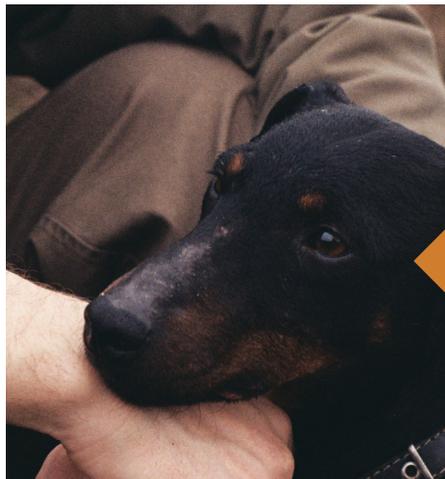
August 3, 2019  
Essentials Conference  
Raleigh, NC

November 22-23, 2019  
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